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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HATFIELD.

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

On the 31st March, 1946, Dr. Trevor Thomas, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., R.C.P.S., relinquished his appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council, the Hatfield Rural District Council and the Welwyn Rural District Council, to take yp an appointment as Medical Officer of Health in East Africa.

I was appointed Medical Officer of Health in his place for the three districts on the 25th March, 1946.

I have the honour to submit the Interim Annual Report for the whole of the year, 1946, and the Report should be read in the light of paragraphs (1) and (2) above.

The Report includes the usual statistics to the requirements of the Ministry of Health with Reports by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A new feature is the inclusion of a short memorandum by the Housing Officer on the housing situation which gave the Council the gravest concern throughout the whole of the year, and note by your Architect.

I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance given to me as a newcomer by the Council's officers in all departments.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J.E. DICKSON,

M.B., B.S. (Lond.) D.P.H.

Council Offices,
Hatfield.

December, 1947.

1. STATISTICS

	1946	1945	1944
Rateable value at 31st December.	170,520	168,440	167,597
Inhabited houses at 31st December.	5,312	5,210	5,200
The population figure - mid year- (Registrar General)	21,420	20,030	20,150
Number of deaths from all causes.	198	160	218
Number of live births			
Legitimate	383	289	387
Illegitimate	24	20	21
Number of still births			
Legitimate	10	8	5
Illegitimate	-	-	2
Number of deaths under one year			
Legitimate	9	10	9
Illegitimate	1	3	3
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population.	19.00	15.42	20.25
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births.	23.98	25.23	16.87
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the population.	9.25	7.99	10.82
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births.	24.57	42.07	29.41
Death rate of all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	23.49	34.60	23.25
Death rate of all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	41.66	150.00	142.86

The death rate of all infants for England & Wales was 43.

Of the 10 infant deaths, 3 were due to prematurity, and 6 to congenital defects, and not preventable.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1946.	1945.	1944.
Poliomyelitis:	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever:	X 14	34	15
Diphtheria:	Ø 3	1	-
Whooping Cough:	22	14	69
Measles:	54	354	51
Erysipelas:	2	1	2
Pneumonia:	16	15	11
Puerperal Pyrexia:	10	-	1
Sonne Dysentery:	-	92	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorium:	-	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis:	1	-	-

X Includes 1 non-civilian. Ø Includes 2 non-civilians.

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

During the year 156 children under 5 years were immunised and 22 children over 5 years.

4. TUBERCULOSIS:

There were 10 deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

	Male.		Female.		
	Pul.	N.PUl.	Pul.	N.Pul.	Total.
On the register at 31.12.45.	60	15	43	16	134
Removals.	17	1	13	2	33
Additions.	16	3	11	2	32
On the register at 31.12.46.	59	17	41	16	133

5. SCABIES:

During the year the following cases were treated:-

Adults:			
Male:	Female:	Children.	Total.
20	37	44	101.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

J.R. HOWARTH, M. Inst.M. & Cy.E., M. Inst. R.A.

WATER SUPPLIES.

1. Greater London Water Supply.

The Metropolitan Water Board circulated a statement outlining a scheme prepared by them for the future water supply in the Greater London Area.

The Area contains 2,754 square miles with a population of 10,700,000 at present supplied by 65 separate undertakings, providing 423,000,000 gallons per day.

The Council viewed with some concern, the creation of such a large authority, and the remote link there would be with the consumer compared with the close link there is with the present water undertaking, and the excellent relations and service given by Barnet Water Co.

2. Water Act 1945, Section 14.

The Minister of Health gave notice that he proposed to make an order under the above Act defining an area which includes part of the County of Hertford in which special measures for the conservation of water are necessary. The provisions prohibit, except under licence the construction of works for the abstraction of water from underground sources.

3. Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act 1944.

Approval of the Council was given to the following extensions :-

(i)	Cromer Hyde	23 houses	£3,000
(ii)	Wild Hill	25 houses	£1,250
(iii)	Tylers Causeway	25 houses	£3,000
(iv)	Holwell Cottages Essendon	4 houses	200
			£7,450

The estimated cost to the Council of these proposals is £824 after taking into account a contribution of £500.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Condition of River Lee

Several conferences were held at the instigation of the Harpenden U.D.C., both with local authorities and the Ministry of Health, and urgent representations made of the continued unsatisfactory condition of the River.

2. Sewer Extension - Bull Lane

It was decided to lay a new length of sewer to serve a new factory and adjoining land.

After consideration of a report by their Consulting Engineers (Messrs Balfour & Sons) the Council approved the following :-

	Estimated Cost	No. of houses
(a) Mill Green Village	£2,500	20
(b) Lemsford Village	£9,500	40

The following possible sewer extensions were held over:-

	Estimated Cost	No. of houses
(a) Bell Bar	£1,200	30
(b) Cromer Hyde	£3,500	20
(c) Wild Hill	£1,150	30

3. Roe Green Village

An inspection shows that the village is well served with regard to drainage.

Number of houses	51
Houses with water carriage system	49
Houses connected to sewer	38
Houses connected to cesspools	11

Two cottages are without water closets which the owners have agreed to provide at a cost of £160.

4. Notice of intention to construct sewers.

The Welwyn Garden City U.D.C. have served notice of intention to construct sewers in connection with the erection of 100 aluminium houses, on a site East of the Woodman Public House in this district.

DISPOSAL WORKS

The Sewage Disposal Works at Hatfield, Welham Green, Newgate Street and Essendon have functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. Developments will necessitate extensions at the Hatfield Works. The Welham Green Works can probably remain without additions until completion of the Colne Valley Sewage Board's Scheme if this is not too long delayed. The Cuffley Disposal Works should be replaced by another scheme as soon as possible.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

During the early part of the year Italian Prisoners of War were employed on the collection of house refuse, the Labour Exchange being unable to meet requirements for 5 loaders. A contractor was then engaged to carry out the work in the parishes of North Mymms and Northaw. In these two parishes there are approximately 1500 properties, and the contract for a fortnightly collection amounts to £2,000 per annum.

A fortnightly collection is now being made throughout the district and few complaints are being received.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

In view of the numerous applications for licences for permission to erect and station moveable dwellings on sites scattered throughout the district, it was decided to establish a site for such dwellings under the control of the Council. Instructions were given for the purphase of The Wrestlers Field Hatfield, which is a suitable site for the purpose, where water supply and main drainage can easily be provided.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

There are 444 cesspools in the District and the Council operate a cleansing service using one 750 emptier. Two free emptyings are given each year with a greater number in areas where delay in the provision of main drainage has brought special difficulty.

307 emptyings, with a total of 580 loads were made during the year.

REPORT OF THE ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

S. W. WRIGHT, A.R. San.I.

HOUSING SURVEY

The parish of Essendon and part of the parish of Hatfield have been surveyed, - 653 houses in all. Progress during the year was slow, but will speed up substantially in 1947. The total number of houses to be surveyed with the £20 Rateable Value Class is 3,600.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

The following is a list of foods condemned during 1946, as unfit for human consumption :-

	Number of Packages	Weight in lbs.
Butchers' Meat	-	130
Sausage	-	33
Bacon	-	15
Corned Beef	57	202
Other Tinned Meat.	61	60
Tinned Fish.	33	24
Tinned Vegetables.	38	48
Tinned soups.	5	5
Tinned fruit.	28	91
Tinned milk.	81	76
Dried milk.	-	130 (C)
Dried Egg	-	13 (C)
Eggs.	48	
Butter.	-	21
Margarine.	-	54
Cheese.	-	73
Tea.	-	4
Jam.	63	67 (C)
Oatmeal.	-	26 (C)
Boiled Sweets.	-	5 (C)
Figs.	-	25 (C)
Dessert Powders.	432	144
Mustard.	-	9
Flour.	-	60
Pastry.	-	12
	798	1327 lbs.

Note: Items marked (C) are Canteen stocks which had been badly stored.

WATER SUPPLIES

The main supply is furnished by The Barnet District Gas & Water Co., whose area embraces the whole of the District, in which are situated three of their pumping stations i.e. at Water End, Roe Hill and Essendon. There has been no failure of the supply at any time, and bacteriologists' reports on samples have been consistently good, indicating water of the highest quality.

WATER SUPPLIES (Contd).

The Water Company have their own Chemist and Bacteriologist so that the water going into the main supply is under continuous control.

A private Estate supply at Stanborough continues to be unreliable from a point of view of supply, although the quality of the water is good. Attempts to secure the co-operation of the owner of the system in connecting the houses to the main supply have only been successful, and 40 houses remain on the private supply.

The following table shows the position regarding supplies to houses in the District :-

Public Supply	MAINS. Houses supplied.	MAINS. Est: Pop:	STANPIPES. Houses supp. - lied.	STANPIPES. Est: Pop:	TOTAL. Houses supplied.	TOTAL. Est: Pop:
HATFIELD	2793	11,000	32	120	2825	11,120
ESSENDON	164	675	-	-	164	675
NORTH MYMMS	1323	5,300	16	60	1339	5,360
NORTHAW	902	3,600	3	10	905	3,610
	5182	20,575	51	190	5233	20,765
Private Estate Supplies.						
HATFIELD	91	370	3	10	94	380
	5273	20,945	54	200	5327	21,145
Well Supply.						
HATFIELD					63	250
NORTH MYMMS					24	90
NORTHAW					4	15
					5418	21,500

RIVER POLLUTION - LEE

In conjunction with the Malaria Officer of the Ministry of Health and the County Sanitary Inspector, large scale D.D.T. treatment of the lake at Brocket Hall was carried out, following complaints of mosquitoes, as an anti-malaria measure.

RECORDS OF VISITS.

Visits to food premises	89
Visits under the Housing Acts	155
Drainage	56
Vermin	42
Disinfestations	20
Infectious Disease disinfctn:	48
Infectious Disease, other visits	28
Disinfection of bedding	3
Milk & Dairies Acts & Orders	151
Water supply	27
Caravans	7
Ice Cream	5
Miscellaneous	20
	651

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NOTES BY ARCHITECT -

J.H.PARKER, A.R.I.B.A.

HOUSING PROGRAMME:- The immediate programme of the Council at 31st December 1946, apart from long term policy, was as under :-

Hatfield Parish	220
North Mymms "	100
Northaw "	40
Essendon "	23
	383

It was estimated at 30th June 1946, that the Housing requirements for the ensuing two years was 2,400 houses.

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